

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrode for an alkaline storage battery comprising:  
an electrode substrate; and

an active material layer formed on the electrode substrate containing ~~an active material~~ hydrogen storage alloy particles and a binder as a main component thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin,

wherein ~~said binder contains~~ the thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin binds the hydrogen storage alloy particles to each other, or binds the hydrogen storage alloy particles with the substrate.

2. (Previously Presented) An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin is alkylphenyl-modified xylene-formaldehyde resin.

3. (Currently Amended) An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein ~~said active material has~~ hydrogen storage alloy particles have a particle diameter within a range of 20 – 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Previously Presented) An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said active material is a hydrogen absorbing metal alloy capable of reversibly making electro-chemical absorption or desorption of hydrogen.

5. (Original) An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein a layer of said thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin covers the outside of said active material layer.

6. (Original) An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin is contained in a boundary between said active material layer and said electrode substrate.

7. (Original) An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin is contained in said active material layer.

8.-22. Withdrawn